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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

BY

IAN M. McLACHLAN,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Leamington Spa :

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1949.

69, NEW ROAD,
SOLIHULL.

October, 1949.

To the Solihull Urban District Council.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the Solihull Urban District Council for the year 1948. As I did not commence duty until the 1st October, 1948, I feel that I am not in a position to report on the excellent work carried out in the previous 9 months by my predecessor, Dr. H. GIBBONS WARD, who has retired. His advice and experience have been willingly and expertly given to me and my staff.

Since the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act on the 5th July, 1948, big changes have taken place in the Public Health Service, particularly in the status of the Borough and District Medical Officers of Health. The interesting clinical medical work has passed to the Regional Hospital Board and most of the authority previously entrusted to the District Medical Officer of Health has gone to the County Medical Officer of Health, so that the District Medical Officer of Health is very much in a junior position and cannot exercise the authority that his colleagues in other branches of Local Government work do. This, naturally, will deter entrants to the Service, which I consider unfortunate. I feel that if the present state of affairs is to continue, it would be more advantageous to the Public Health Officer to be employed directly by the Ministry of Health and a service similar to the Government Veterinary Service established.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

IAN McLACHLAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

Solihull Urban District Council.

Chairman of the Council: Councillor H. N. CARTWRIGHT, M.C., J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman of the Council: Councillor J. N. WOOLLASTON.

Members of the Public Health Committee: Councillor Mrs. N. TIMMS (Chairman), Councillor V. A. RAINIER (Vice-Chairman), Councillors W. A. JUDD, J. C. KEYTE, P. S. LYONS, S. PARR, H. I. PEDLEY and Dr. D. E. QUINET.

The CHAIRMAN of the Council is an *ex-officio* Member of the Public Health Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health:

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Retired July, 1948—

but continued in temporary capacity for 2 months).

IAN M. McLACHLAN, L.R.C.P. & S. Ire., L.M., D.P.H.

(Commenced duties October, 1948).

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

a,c,e,f. ERNEST VAUGHAN.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector:

a.c.d. JOSEPH S. FORMAN.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

b,c. GEOFFREY N. DEAN.

b,c,e. STANLEY MONKS.

a,c,d. ERNEST SOUTHERN.

b,c. ROBERT P. CHURCHILL.

Rodent Inspectors:

E. CALLAGHAN.

J. MCGHIE

(Resigned April, 1948).

Clerks:

GLADYS A. HALFORD.

PHYLLIS H. HOPKINS.

BRENDA C. MYERS.

Public Analysts:

BOSTOCK HILL & RIGBY.

- a.* Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- b.* Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Association Joint Examination Board.
- c.* Meat Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- d.* Sanitary Science Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- e.* Smoke Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- f.* Certificate of the Institute of Public Cleansing.

Solihull Urban District.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1948 (Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	66,600
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	17.5
Still Birth Rate —Rate per 1,000 total births					...	20.5
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	8.1
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis	...	1			
	„ other causes	...	2			
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—						
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	17.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					...	18.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	—

Population.—There is a marked increase in the Estimated Population, viz., 66,600 as against the figure of 63,890 in 1947.

Birth Rate.—The figure, 17.5 per 1,000, is lower than in 1947, but compares favourably with the figure for England and Wales, viz., 17.9.

Death Rate.—The figure 8.1 is lower than the average for the past 10 years and lower than the figure for England and Wales, viz., 10.8.

Statistics for the past few years and of England and Wales are shewn in Table II.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. *Public Health Officers*.—A complete list of personnel is given at the front of this report. The Inspectorial staff now comprises a Chief Sanitary Inspector, his deputy and four Additional Sanitary Inspectors. In addition up to April there were two operatives, but for the remaining eight months of the year only one operative carrying out the work of rodent destruction, and appropriate clerical staff.

2. *Laboratory Facilities*.—Bacteriological examinations by the Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria	68	258	326
Paratyphoid	3	3	6
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	77	83
			<hr/> 415 <hr/>

3. *Hospitals*.—On the 5th July, 1948, the following passed to the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board :—

Brook House Maternity Home.
Catherine-de-Barnes Infectious Diseases Hospital.
Evans Convalescent Home.
Middlefield Hall, Knowle.
Solihull Hospital.

4. *Ambulance Facilities*.—Since 5th July, 1948, the Ambulance Service continues to be administered by the Warwickshire County Council. The Ambulances are housed at the Hermitage, Lode Lane, Solihull.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. *Water*.

(i) Whether the supply has been satisfactory :—

- (a) In quality.—Water taken from the mains of the water undertakers, respectively the Cities of Birmingham and Coventry, has given no cause for complaint. In the rural parts of the area many shallow wells still exist, although water mains extensions to many parts of the district are reducing the numbers of houses supplied with water from such wells.
- (b) In quantity.—Those premises served by the mains of the City of Birmingham have, generally speaking, adequate supplies, but those served by the City of Coventry are subject to periods of low pressure on the mains, the remedy of which must await additional supplies of water which it is understood are planned and in the process of execution.

(ii) *Results of examinations of piped water supplies.*—Routine samples were submitted to the analyst from the supplies of each of the water undertakers for chemical and bacteriological examination, all samples proved satisfactory.

(iii) *The facts as to contamination by lead.*—There is no evidence to show that the mains water supplies serving the Solihull Urban District are liable to be plumbo-solvent.

(iv) *Action in respect of contamination.*—Apart from the laying of water mains extensions to those areas of a rural character, no action was necessary affecting public or piped supplies and individual wells which were the subject of complaint were investigated as necessity demanded.

(v) Number of houses and population served by public water mains.

(a) *Direct to the houses.*

The number of houses and retail shops, as ascertained from the rate books, is 19,847. Of these, approximately 18,820, or 95 per cent., are connected to mains direct to the houses and 915 or 4.5 per cent., are served by 659 wells.

(b) *By Standpipes.*

111 houses or approximately .5 per cent. are served with mains water from 30 standpipes or taps in outbuildings for the common use of several houses.

The proportion of the population supplied from the public water mains is not accurately known.

For further particulars on the subject of water supplies see the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

2.—*Drainage and Sewerage.*—The local sewerage system has been extended by 617 yards, and 1,672 yards of storm water sewers in the main in connection with the various housing and educational schemes being developed in the district.

3. *Closet Accommodation.*—This matter is referred to in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

4. *Public Cleansing.*—The Council undertake the removal of house refuse from all premises within the Urban District area, the ashbin method of storage being general. The system of disposal is that of controlled tipping.

D. HOUSING.

The following table gives details of houses completed during the year.

Council Houses	...	...	354
Prefabricated bungalows	...	...	33
Private Houses	...	...	53
Private Houses rebuilt	...	...	8
Private conversions of existing accommodation	...	...	5
Police Houses (County Council)			6
			<hr/> 459 <hr/>

Overcrowding.—Few complaints of overcrowding reach this office because most sufferers in this direction are applicants for Council Houses, and prefer to pursue their legitimate claims in that direction. In the points system used for the allocation of Council Houses, allowance is made for such cases.

Although the worst have undoubtedly been relieved, some cases are known to exist which exceed the standards of the Housing Act and, in view of the rapidly rising population of the district, it is doubtful whether the present rate of house building is sufficient to counteract this natural growth of an expanding district.

Fitness of Houses.—The position outlined in the report for 1947, which drew attention to the dilapidations occurring in old property due to the low rent income being insufficient to meet the cost of repairs, still remains. In addition, the legacies which are the result of the housing situation following the 1914-18 war are largely still with us in the shape of a limited amount of shack development. The houses which are units in such development are wholly unprofitable to repair, and must be the first to be demolished when the housing situation justifies the demolition clauses of the Housing Act, 1936, being considered.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This subject is dealt with in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1939.

	Smallpox	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1943	—	12	175	1	71	—	3
1944	—	7	167	1	39	—	11
1945	—	7	90	—	34	—	10
1946	—	12	114	—	40	—	3
1947	—	22	101	—	37	—	1
1948	—	33	105	1	50	—	2

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified in 1948.

Scarlet Fever.—105 cases were notified. Cases were distributed as follows:—Shirley 11, Solihull 42, Sheldon 20, Olton 31, and Hockley Heath 1.

Diphtheria.—Of the 33 cases notified 7 were in adults who were not immunised. Of the remaining cases, 21 had been immunised; there were five deaths.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Immunisation continued throughout the year, and at 31st December, 1948, 5,087 children of school age had been treated, and 5,565 under school age, giving a grand total of 10,652 immunised up to the end of 1948.

Poliomyelitis.—During the year one case of Poliomyelitis was notified in the district, male aged 5 years. One female, aged 20 years, notified in the previous year (1947) died during the year 1948. Both cases were treated in hospital.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—Nothing of note.

No schools closed.

Notifications of all Infectious Diseases occurring amongst school children are duly forwarded to me from the schools.

TUBERCULOSIS.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE—PERIODS	NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.		
	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...
0	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
1	—	1	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
5	2	2	...	1	2	...	—	—	...	1	—
15	6	2	...	1	3	...	1	—	...	—	—
25	6	8	...	1	1	...	4	3	...	—	—
35	5	2	...	1	—	...	3	—	...	—	—
45	9	2	...	2	1	...	3	2	...	—	—
55	1	2	...	—	—	...	2	1	...	1	—
65 and upwards	...	2	1	...	—	—	...	2	—	...	—	—
TOTALS	...	31	20	...	6	7	...	15	6	...	2	—

The following Table shows the incidence of Tuberculosis for the past 20 years, and the number of deaths yearly for the same period.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
Cases ...	24	21	30	27	30	21	36
Deaths	13	11	16	12	16	12	6
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Cases ...	38	42	53	60	60	58	61
Deaths	13	14	14	15	26	23	24
	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	
Cases ...	60	51	48	56	58	64	
Deaths	27	23	18	33	20	23	

The increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis during the past 20 years is more than accounted for by the increase in the population.

64 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, 51 being Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 13 of other forms.

13 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 8 were discharged after treatment.

21 deaths were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 2 to Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Of the 64 cases notified during the year, 4 died.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The essential concern of the Sanitary Inspector is for the environmental conditions of the area to which he is appointed, and, although his duties are fully set out in Act and Regulation, defined by Parliament and Ministers of the Crown, they vary according to the measure of local circumstance. In this area of semi-urban and, at the same time, semi-rural character, need emphasises the duty to devote effort to the provision of pure water and wholesome food as a primary consideration and to help those in difficulty due to lack of repair to their homes.

The Council, fully alive to these considerations, has no doubt derived satisfaction from the knowledge that ten water mains extension schemes, involving the laying of over seven miles of mains, have been completed during the year, thus almost completing the three year programme of extensions put in hand in March, 1946. Since the schemes were commenced, 354 existing houses have had mains water laid on, putting out of use 219 wells. Most areas are now served with an adequate supply of water but, in many cases where mains are laid, there are no sewers available and, as most waste water passes down the drain, increased work has been placed upon the cesspool emptying service. Undoubtedly, the extra cost has been justified, for polluted wells are not a feature which a progressive authority can observe with equanimity, but a sewerage service has long been needed in some areas and the installation of mains water merely emphasises this need. When both water mains and sewers are available, pail closets can be replaced with sanitary appliances suited to the present age.

The table of visits shows that almost one-third of the visits made were in connection with the supervision of food production or distribution, more time being devoted to milk than to any other food. That this was not without reward is shown in the satisfactory condition of milk sold by retail in the area.

Routine housing repairs are becoming more difficult of execution, for the passage of time brings enhanced costs of labour and materials, whilst rents remain fixed by legislation. A few cases of hardship amongst landlords are being noticed and the tendency to concentrate on repairs to the fabric of the structure, rather than to aim at the preservation of woodwork and the appearance of premises by new paint, is now general.

With this exception, 1948 can be said to have been a year of steady development and, whilst progress is not so speedy as one would wish, the lack of speed is not due to lack of will, but rather to those restrictive circumstances, mainly financial, which not only affect the Urban District, but also the country as a whole.

If a note of conclusion be needed, it should take the form of a tribute to the loyalty of an Inspectorial staff, without whose willing assistance the work set out in the following pages could not have been achieved.

E. VAUGHAN,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Particulars of Entries in Registers.

Cowkeepers only	...	...	...	...	75
Cowkeepers who retail milk	...	...	...	...	16
Other retailers of milk	...	...	...	...	48

Particulars of persons registered to produce and sell Designated Milk.

Licensed as producers by the County Council.

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	4
Accredited	...	...	...	...	15

Licensed to sell Designated Milk by this Council.

Supplementary or Dealer's Licences.

Supplementary. Dealer's.

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	4	...	2
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	3	...	1
Pasteurised	6	...	2

<i>Licensed to operate Pasteurising Plant</i>	1
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MILK SAMPLES.

The following table gives the results of milk samples submitted to biological, bacteriological and the phosphatase tests.

	Raw Milk.		Tuberculin Tested. Pasteurised Milk.		Pasteurised Milk.		Heat Treated Milk.		TOTALS.	
No. of Samples ...	209		44		127		29		409	
	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Methylene Blue Test ...	132	77	44	—	127	—	28	1	331	78
Coliform Test ...	155	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	155	54
Phosphatase Test	—	—	44	—	127	—	29	—	200	—
T.B. Inoculation	79	3							79	3

The standards used to determine whether samples were satisfactory were those set down in the Milk (Special Designations) Orders which lay down standards for Tuberculin Tested, Accredited and Pasteurised Milk.

Comparison of the table with that of last year shows that the long term improvement which was mentioned then has been maintained. It will be noticed that, of 199 samples examined by the methylene blue test, only one proved unsatisfactory. As roughly ninety per cent. of the milk consumed within the urban district is heat-treated, it will be seen that, in general, the bacteriological quality of the milk supply is satisfactory. The raw milk samples, however, are not so satisfactory and, although the standard of judgment is rather high, it is a reasonable standard to attain and should be attained if care be taken. Most of the milk is sent for pasteurisation to Birmingham dairies, and it is satisfactory to note that these dairies are apparently well able to deal with it. Nevertheless, there has been an improvement in the quality of raw milk, for whereas last year 70% failed to pass the methylene blue test as laid down for raw designated milks, this year the percentage has fallen to 58%. The general picture can, therefore, be interpreted as a gain in the quality of milk produced during the year 1948.

Tuberculous Milk.—82 samples were obtained and submitted to the inoculation test in order to ascertain the presence or absence of the tubercle bacillus. The supply of guinea pigs for the test has improved, and many more samples have been taken this year than last for this reason. Each sample represented a herd or group of cows.

The following table shows the number of samples taken in each of seven recent years and the percentage found positive:—

		<i>Number of Samples Examined.</i>			<i>Number positive to Tubercle Bacillus.</i>		<i>Percentage Positive.</i>
1942	...	21	...	...	3	...	14.2
1943	...	73	...	...	—	...	—
1944	...	144	...	...	4	...	2.8
1945	...	58	...	...	6	...	10.3
1946	...	67	...	...	3	...	4.5
1947	...	28	...	...	1	...	3.6
1948	...	82	...	...	3	...	3.7

COWSHEDS.

It was mentioned in the last report that work at dairy farms was expected to be put in hand during 1948, and it is pleasing to record that some, at least, of this work came to fruition.

The figures show:—

Cowsheds:

Entire reconstruction of cowsheds	...	...	4
Adaptation of existing buildings to cowsheds	...	...	2
Extensions to existing cowsheds	2

Dairies:

New dairies built or adapted from existing buildings	6
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Where new buildings are constructed or adaptations of existing buildings to form cowsheds are carried out, the work done is of a high standard and is, in each case, by agreement with the County Council Officers, of such construction as will ensure that the building concerned will be approved by the County Council for the purpose of the production of milk of special designation, i.e., will be suitable for the production of Tuberculin Tested or Accredited milk.

UN SOUND FOOD.

The following amounts of food were examined and disposed of after inspection had shown that they were unfit for human consumption :—

				<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Meat	...	...	...	—	7	—	13
Fish	...	...	...	—	4	—	25
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	—	3	—	2
Miscellaneous Tinned Foodstuffs	3				6	—	12
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs	...			—	4	2	22
Pickles	...	...	...	6	3		2
Total				10	8	—	20

Of the above, 6 tons 7 cwts. was destroyed because it was unfit for further use, whilst the remainder was diverted for use as animal feeding stuffs.

In connection with this work, 676 surrenders of unsound food were made in respect of which 381 certificates of unfitness were issued to persons applying for them.

The pickles which were found unfit for consumption were part of a consignment mentioned in last year's report which had been disposed of by the Services and probably brought to England from continental ports. Those destroyed were in tins which had been damaged in transit or which showed signs of gas production indicating possible decomposition.

ICE CREAM.

The Council's effort to bring premises where ice cream is manufactured to a satisfactory standard of construction is now practically complete. The code of construction agreed upon by the Public Health Committee has been carried out as they requested, with one exception. This was the case of a manufacturer who had moved into a catering business registered for many years, which was furnished with a separate ice cream manufacturing room, the construction of which was wooden boards lined internally with synthetic boards, instead of brick as requested by the Committee. In this case, promises of reconstruction have been made.

The present numerical position is as follows :—

Manufacturers' Premises :

Registered at close of 1948	...	...	...	...	14
Discontinued during year	...	...	...	...	Nil.
New premises constructed	...	...	...	...	2
Premises adapted	...	...	...	...	2
New Premises registered during year			...	...	1
Premises still to be improved		...	...	...	1

During the year, 4 manufacturers sold their businesses and the new owners were registered as manufacturers of ice cream.

The method of manufacture of ice cream is divided about equally between those who use the "hot mix" and those who manufacture by the "cold mix" method. The former involves the use of a pasteurised custard, and the latter the mixing of proprietary powdered ingredients with clean water before freezing. The "cold mix" method is more used where small quantities are to be made.

Vendors :

Registered at close of 1948	...	...	...	...	85
Registered during year	...	...	...	...	15
Selling pre-packed ice cream only	...	..	...	...	46
Selling pre-packed and loose ice cream	..	...	...	...	25
Selling loose ice cream only	...	...	..	...	14

The number of vendors of ice cream has risen from 46 at the end of 1946 to 85 at the close of 1948. The reasons for this are the increased popularity of ice cream during sweet rationing, the increase in the amounts of ingredients made available by the Ministry of Food, and also the fact that many traders have installed refrigerators in connection with the sale of frozen fruits and vegetables, which are equally suitable for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream, so that ice cream can now be bought with the family provisions at the grocers.

The methylene blue test, as developed by the Ministry of Health and provisionally used for judging the bacteriological quality of ice cream according to a system of four grades, has been continued in use. 50 samples were submitted to the test and placed in the following grades by the analyst:—

Grades	...	...	1	2	3	4
No. of Samples	...		7	8	14	21

That there are difficulties with regard to this test is known, for one of the conditions is that ice cream must be kept from the time of collection to the time of delivery to the laboratory at atmospheric shade temperature. The laboratory is 14 miles distant and the samples must be delivered there within two hours of collection, and, although transport is readily available, air temperatures do affect the physical character of the ice cream as it melts readily, and may also affect the bacterial content. The results of batches of ice cream taken during the hottest days have been so unsatisfactory at times as to throw suspicion on sampling technique. Refrigerants are difficult to obtain, but are necessary if satisfactory sampling is to be assured at all times, and the answer is to be found in the provision of a refrigerator which will manufacture ice in small bulk. If such an appliance can be found which, in addition has a compartment suitable for storing milk overnight which is to be tested for added water in connection with Food and Drugs work, the appliance will have a double utility. More testing of ice cream is necessary in hot weather when the demand for the product is high, and the provision of a refrigerator in order to adjust the mode of packing during conveyance of samples under high temperature conditions is now essential.

Fat Content :

Twelve samples were purchased and analysed for fat content, with the following result:—

Below 2.5%	...	...	...	Nil.
Over 2.5% to 5%	...	...	...	6
Over 5% to 10%	...	...	...	3
Over 10%	...	...	...	3

The samples were found to contain fat ranging in percentage between 3.16% and 11.26%.

THE MANUFACTURE OF MEAT PRODUCTS.

The one application for registration of premises, referred to last year as adjourned, was registered during 1948, the applicant having erected and equipped new premises to the Council's requirements. The number of premises registered is :—

Registered at close of 1948	...	9
New premises registered	...	1
New premises constructed	...	1

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT SAMPLING.

The work done during the year is itemised below :—

<i>Total number of samples taken—</i>				<i>Formal.</i>	<i>Informal.</i>
Milk	...	...	...	150	4
Miscellaneous Foods and Drugs				5	145

Of these, 141 formal samples and 3 informal samples of milk, and 1 formal sample and 136 informal samples of miscellaneous food and drugs were reported as genuine.

The following samples were reported unsatisfactory :—

<i>No.</i>	<i>Article.</i>	<i>Method.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
183	Sage and Onion Stuffing.	Informal.	Labelling offence. Letter sent to Suppliers.
190	Currie Powder ...	Informal.	Labelling offence. No weight noted. Packers notified. Old stock.
191	Mixed Sweet Herbs	Informal.	Excessive amount of sand. (Sample repeated—See No. 208).
200	Indian Brandee ...	Informal.	Labelling offence. Letter sent to Suppliers.
208	Mixed Sweet Herbs	Formal	Slight excessive amount of sand. Warning letter sent to Suppliers.
244	Almond Chips Substitute.	Informal	Consisted of rusks containing only 1.5% of oil. (Sample repeated—See No. 286).
267	Iodine ...	Informal	Contained excess Iodine. Unable to make formal purchase as substance was out of stock.
286	Almond Chips Substitute.	Formal	Consisted entirely of a partially cooked wheaten product and contained only the amount of oil (1.43%) which is usually present in wheat. No legal action taken mainly owing to lack of definition of the term "Almond Chips Substitute." Was withdrawn from sale on Department's representation.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Article.</i>	<i>Method.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
397	Sausage ...	Informal	27% deficient of meat (Sample repeated—See No. 408).
408	Sausage ...	Formal	34% deficient of meat. Legal proceedings were instituted, a fine of £2 with £10 10s. 0d. costs being imposed on the defendant.
440	Gravy Browning ...	Informal	Labelling offence. Old stock. Letter sent to Suppliers.
441	Sausage ...	Informal	29.4% deficient of meat. (Sample repeated—See No. 459).
459	Sausage ...	Formal	Deficient of 43% meat. Legal proceedings were instituted, a fine of £5 with £5 5s. 0d. costs being imposed on defendant.

1948 was apparently a year of poor milk quality and this area found, in common with others, that more milk samples than usual were found to be deficient in solids, mainly due to natural causes.

The legal minimum standards of solid content in milk are laid down, by the Sale of Milk Regulations, as fat 3% and solids-not-fat 8.5%. The purpose of the freezing point test is to confirm the presence of added water.

The results of unsatisfactory milk samples were as follows:—

<i>No.</i>	<i>Method.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
215	Formal	Solids-not-fat 8.2%. Fat ... 3.1%. Freezing Point —0.507°C. (Sample repeated—See No. 229).
229	Formal	Solids-not-fat 8.7%. Fat ... 3.1%. Freezing Point —0.538°C. (3.8% added water). Farmer-retailer warned.
231	Formal	Solids-not-fat 8.3%. Fat ... 3.0%. Freezing Point —0.532°C. Retailer warned.
273	Formal	Solids-not-fat 8.4%. Fat ... 3.4%. Freezing Point —0.537°C. Retailer warned.
307	Formal	Solids-not-fat 8.9%. Fat ... 2.6%. (13% deficient in fat). Sample repeated—Genuine. “Appeal to Cow” samples—genuine. Farmer-retailer warned.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Method.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
323	Formal	Solids-not-fat 8.9%. Fat ... 2.5%. (16% deficient in Fat). "Appeal to Cow" samples showed deficiencies in fat of 6%, 3% and 3%. Farmer-retailer warned. Warwickshire Agricultural Executive Committee notified.
355	Formal	Solids-not-fat 8.5%. Fat ... 2.6%. (13% deficient in Fat). "Appeal to Cow" samples—13% deficient in fat. Farmer-Retailer warned.
425	Formal	Solids-not-fat 8.1%. Fat ... 3.6%. Freezing Point —0.545°C. (Sample repeated—See No. 433).
433	Formal	Solids-not-fat 8.2%. Fat ... 3.6%. Freezing Point —0.535°C. "Appeal to Cow" samples—genuine. Farmer-retailer warned.
470	Informal	26% added water. 20% deficient in Fat. Sample repeated—genuine. No action taken.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The three-year programme of water mains extensions authorised by the Council in 1946, was completed by March, 1949, with one small exception, a portion of the Chessetts Wood Road-Chapel Lane scheme, Packwood, which was delayed on account of shortage of materials. Although, at the beginning of 1948, the programme was well behind schedule, the water undertakers found themselves in a position to release labour from other work during the year, and this factor accelerated the rate of main laying. As a result, the following schemes were completed in the area for which the City of Birmingham are the water undertakers, during 1948 :—

<i>Name of Scheme.</i>	<i>Length in Yards.</i>
Mill Lane, Bentley Heath	300
Chapel Lane, Hockley Heath	150
Rumbush Lane, Earlswood	435
Peterbrook Road, Shirley	680
Tythebarn Lane, Shirley	1,100
Lugtrout Lane, Solihull	1,085
Tanworth Lane-Lady Lane, Shirley	2,110
Creynolds Lane, Shirley	570
Henwood Lane-Barston Lane, Solihull	840
Norton Lane-Wood Lane, etc., Earlswood, and Shutt Lane, etc., Illshaw Heath	5,553

Since 1945, the numbers of houses which have been connected to water mains annually are as follows :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>No. of Houses connected to mains.</i>		<i>No. of Wells involved.</i>	
1945	...	118	...	63
1946	...	84	...	60
1947	...	47	...	38
1948	...	105	...	58

During 1948, 58 wells were rendered redundant, but approximately 915 houses still rely on 659 wells for their water supply, the number served by water mains being now 18,821.

The extension of water mains has reduced the number of wells to be kept under observation in accordance with the Council's policy of sampling wells serving cafes or similar establishments, or groups of houses, but 18 such samples have been taken with the following results :—

Number of samples submitted to chemical and bacterio- logical analysis	...	...	...	...	...	18
Number satisfactory in both tests	...	...	...	...	...	14
Number unsatisfactory in both tests	...	...	...	...	...	4

Cases of wells which give unsatisfactory results are investigated and any necessary corrective action taken.

SWIMMING POOLS.

The Council's application to the Ministry of Health to approve byelaws governing the maintenance and use of public swimming pools, have now been approved and came into operation in the Urban District on the 1st September, 1948.

Inspection has shown that, although the plant at one pool was adequate to change the whole of the water in the pool in about six hours, a similar change at a second pool required over 20 hours and a request was made to the owner that new plant be installed which would satisfy the new byelaw provision. This work was in progress at the close of the year.

Five samples of swimming bath water were forwarded to the Public Analyst from the pools used by the public and submitted to chemical and bacteriological examination, and a sample from a private pool was also examined. All samples proved satisfactory.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

There is little doubt that the work of disinfestation carried on over the past four years has resulted in a general reduction of the numbers of rats in the district. For this reason, when one of the two operators left the Council's service during the year, and a satisfactory replacement could not be found, it was felt better not to fill the post at present. This has meant that some survey work has not been done as in the past, but, owing to the more satisfactory general state of the district, this is not so necessary at present.

Private Houses.

The residential nature of the district is responsible for the need of the operator to spend most of his time in connection with work at dwelling-houses. The method of charging for work done at domestic premises is that of an inclusive fixed sum per job, the amount being dependent on the rateable value of the property. Properties with a rateable value of up to £20 are charged 5/-, and those in excess of that value, 10/-.

During the year 130 domestic premises were treated and cleared of rats, 6 premises having infestations which were estimated to exceed 50 rats.

Business Premises.

An inclusive charge of 4/- per hour is made to cover the services of the operator and the cost of materials when business premises are treated.

During the year, 23 premises of this type were disinfested.

Sewers.

The sewerage system was treated on two occasions during the year, during March and September.

In March, bait was placed on the benches of 295 sewer inspection chambers, and three days later, it was noted that the bait had been eaten to some extent in 75 cases. These manholes were then rebaited with the same type of bait as previously used, to which a poison, zinc phosphide, had been added.

During the September treatment, 331 inspection chambers were baited, and poison bait laid in 58 manholes.

INDUSTRIAL SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Complaints were received from residents near the Cranmore factory site of smoke emissions from a tall chimney. This was investigated, the stoker responsible warned, but further observations failed to detect breaches of the law.

SHOPS ACTS.

In these days, the Shops Acts closing hours are generally respected by assistants and shopkeepers. Routine visits are made to check that the closing hours are being complied with and to enforce the provisions of the Acts dealing with comfort of workers and sanitary requirements.

FACTORIES.

The number of factories in the area during 1948 was :—

With mechanical power	...	...	21
Without power	...	...	144
Works of building or engineering construction	...	...	20

For the most part, these factories are engaged on light engineering work.

The cases where defects were found are listed below :—

			<i>Found.</i>	<i>Remedied.</i>
Want of cleanliness	...	...	1	1
Overcrowding	...	...	2	1
Inadequate ventilation	...	...	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences—				
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	21	15
Not separate for sexes	...	...	2	1
Total	...	...	27	19

One of these cases was referred to H.M. Inspector as required by the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937.

152 visits were made to factories during 1948, and 27 visits paid to 21 outworkers registered with the authority. The outworkers premises were found to be satisfactory in all cases.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AND CESSPOOLS.

Owing to the residential nature of the district, the closet accommodation is generally of the water carriage type, with the exception of 879 pail closets and 57 privy middens.

Four pail closets were converted during 1948 to water closets with financial assistance by the Council, two cesspools being dispensed with.

In the country districts, 1,686 houses are still served by 823 cesspools.

CARAVANS AND TEMPORARY DWELLINGS.

The Council's policy of discouraging the establishment of caravans in the area as a means of permanent habitation continues, and the justification of such a policy is not difficult to understand when the colonies of dwellings are seen which, erected as temporary in another time of difficult housing conditions, have, after almost thirty years of existence, come to be regarded as a semi-permanent feature of the district.

It would not be true to say that these dwellings are a major feature of the district; they are not, but their continued existence in a residential district is a constant reminder that, whenever opportunity occurs, action must be taken, not only to prevent an enlargement of the existing numbers, but also to demolish them when this can be done without inflicting undue hardship.

During 1948, five applications were received to establish caravans. Three were refused and two deferred in the expectation that informal action would result in a satisfactory conclusion being arrived at informally. Events proved that one application was withdrawn and, in the other case, the caravan removed.

The occupier of one caravan site was proceeded against in the local court during the year, under the provisions of a local Act, on the grounds that he had not obtained the previous permission of the Council to allow the land to be used for siting caravans, and a charge was made against a van dweller for using a caravan on this land for human habitation without permission. The court dismissed both cases on the grounds that the permission of the Council was implied because they had collected rates from the properties and given service by removing house refuse. An appeal to the High Court, from a case stated by the Justices and heard on the 21st January, 1949, was also dismissed, not on the grounds stated by the Justices, but on technical grounds.

During the year application was made by the Council to the Ministry of Health for the approval of byelaws with respect to tents, vans, sheds and similar structures used for human habitation.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

Further progress towards the effectiveness of the operation of the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937, was made during the year.

As a result of correspondence with firms interested in the discharge of trade effluents into the sewer, seven applications were received and granted by the Surveyor's Department, upon conditions agreed with the Birmingham, Tame and Rea District Drainage Board, the sewage disposal authority.

Two serious complaints were received at this office from the Drainage Board, one of an apparent cyanide discharge, and one of a chromate discharge, both into the sewer. Immediate investigations were carried out and, in one case, circumstantial evidence of cyanide discharge was found, but there were links missing in the chain of ascertained fact which prevented court action being taken. The case of chromate discharge was investigated, but no evidence was found to suggest that the works most likely to be concerned were at all implicated, and it is probable that this discharge was from a larger drainage area in another district.

Due to the time lag between any noxious discharge and its observation, which is generally of the order of $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours, it is often easier to trace a possible offender than to obtain proof which will satisfy a bench of magistrates.

One case, involving a chromium discharge, was, however, successfully prosecuted. The charges in this case were—(1) of discharging into a public sewer a trade effluent containing chromate without having obtained the consent of the local authority, contrary to the provisions of the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937; (2) allowing the same discharge to enter a public sewer in such a manner as to be likely to affect prejudicially the treatment and disposal of the contents of the sewer, contrary to Section 27 of the Public Health Act, 1936, on the 4th October, 1947.

There were two other similar charges relating to a discharge of trade effluent containing chromate alleged to have been put into the sewers on the 30th October, 1947. The Magistrates found all four charges proved and inflicted fines as follows:—

- (1) Offence of 4th October, 1947 :
Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937.
£25.
- (2) Offence of 4th October, 1947 :
Public Health Act, 1936. £10.
- (3) Offence of 30th October, 1947 :
Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937.
Dismissed on payment of costs amounting to £5 9s. 0d.
- (4) Offence of 30th October, 1947 :
Public Health Act, 1936. £10.

During the year one new plating business has been established; thus five firms are now operating such plants in the Urban District.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

All petroleum storage premises, which require the possession of a licence for their use were inspected during the year and carefully checked and recorded.

Under the Act, the local authority may impose such conditions as they deem necessary to any licence granted by them, and a comprehensive set of conditions, based on experience gained in this and other districts, has been drafted, approved by the Council, and brought into use as from the 1st July, 1948.

98 installations were licensed for the storage of 139,051 gallons of petroleum spirit and/or petroleum mixtures, and one was licensed for the storage of 56,000 lbs. of carbide of calcium. The income received from the payment of licence fees was £70 15s. 0d.

TABLE OF WORK DONE—1948.

DWELLING HOUSES.

Internal Defects remedied :

Defective plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Defective kitchen ranges, fireplaces and flues	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Defective washboilers	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective windows and cords	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Defective doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective sinks and waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
New sinks and waste pipes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

External Defects remedied :

Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Defective pointing and brickwork of walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Defective chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Defective rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective eavesgutters	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Defective dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Defective yard paving	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

DRAINAGE.

Defective drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Defective drains cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Houses connected to sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pail closets converted to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
New pail closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective and obstructed W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Ditches cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

WATER SUPPLY.

Houses connected to water mains	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
Defective hot water apparatus remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Defective water supply and burst pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

FARMS AND DAIRIES.

Reconstructed cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
New dairies built or adapted	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cowsheds adapted from other buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Structural defects at farms and dairies remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Limewashing of cowsheds and dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

MISCELLANEOUS.

Defects at factories remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Lots of infected bedding disinfected or destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Houses disinfected after cases of infectious diseases	137
Miscellaneous defects remedied	35

TOTAL	894
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TABLE I.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED IN THE SANITARY
INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1948.

	Inspections made.	Notices served.		Notices complied with.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools	...1545	6	208	177
Ashbins ... ..	... 106	9	32	23
Drainage ... ..	... 270	—	41	34
Offensive Accumulations ... ..	... 10	—	8	3
Other Food Premises, Slaughter- houses, Bakehouses ... ..	... 398	—	1	1
Milk Producing and Retailing Prem- ises ... ..	... 186	—	3	2
Stables and Piggeries ... ..	... 56	—	—	—
Smoke Observations ... ..	... 4	—	—	—
Huts, Vans and Sheds ... ..	... 81	—	—	—
Factories ... ..	... 152	—	2	1
Outworkers' Premises ... ..	... 27	—	—	—
Milk Sampling ... ..	... 478	—	—	—
Ice Cream Sampling and Inspection of Premises ... ..	... 368	—	—	—
Water Supplies ... ..	... 148	—	13	8
Rivers Pollution ... ..	... 42	—	—	—
Swimming Pools ... ..	... 16	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases and Disinfections	307	—	—	—
Rat and Mice Complaints ... ..	... 53	—	—	—
Shops ... ..	... 83	—	—	—
Petroleum Installations ... ..	... 293	—	—	—
Interviews ... ..	... 122	—	—	—
Closet Conversions ... ..	... 58	—	3	4
Food and Drugs ... ..	... 404	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ... ..	... 799	—	—	—
TOTALS	6,006	15	311	253

E. VAUGHAN,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1948 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1941	58,850	1,106	18.8	60	54	577	9.3
1942	60,960	1,204	19.8	52	43	560	9.2
1943	60,670	1,380	22.8	51	37	537	8.8
1944	60,070	1,400	23.4	44	31	532	8.8
1945	58,770	1,143	19.5	34	30	518	8.8
1946	61,720	1,223	19.5	41	33	555	8.9
1947	63,890	1,345	21.1	32	24	546	8.5
1948	66,600	1,169	17.5	21	17.9	545	8.1

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1948.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1948.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

			Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	17.9	0.42	10.8	34
126 Great Towns, including London			20.0	0.52	11.6	39
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	19.2	0.43	10.7	32
London	...	...	20.1	0.39	11.6	31

TABLE III.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR
1948.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	33	.....	4	22	3	2	2	.....	33	5
Erysipelas	9	.....	1	.....		4	4	.....	7	.....
Scarlet Fever	105	1	25	72	3	4		.....	19	.....
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever	1	1							1	
Pneumonia	50	3	16	6	.....	5	12	8	11	25
Malaria										
Dysentery	1	.....	1						1	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	.....				2			1	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis										
Poliomyelitis	1	.....			1				1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3							1	
Polio-Encephalitis										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	51	.....	1	12	14	18	3	3	.....	21
Other forms of Tuberculosis	13	.....	3	.....	6	4			.....	2
Totals	269	8	51	112	27	39	21	11	75	55

TABLE IV.
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1948.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	278	267
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	1
5 Diphtheria	2	3
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	17	4
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	1
8 Syphilitic Diseases	—	1
9 Influenza	2	1
10 Measles	—	—
11 Ac. Pollo-Myel and Pollo-Enceph. ...	—	1
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	—	—
13 Cancer of Buccal Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	3	4
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	13	9
15 Cancer of Breast	—	10
16 Cancer, other Sites	46	27
17 Diabetes	—	3
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	30	48
19 Heart Disease	65	65
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	17	14
21 Bronchitis	9	8
22 Pneumonia	15	10
23 Other Resp. Diseases	6	7
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	1	1
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	—	—
26 Appendicitis	2	—
27 Other Digestive Diseases	7	2
28 Nephritis	6	6
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	1
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	2
31 Premature Birth	5	3
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	5	7
33 Suicide	—	2
34 Road Traffic Accidents	7	—
35 Other Violent Causes	4	3
36 All Other Causes	15	23